

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 6 and 12 have been amended. Claims 2, 4-5 and 13-20 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 22 have been added.

**Rejection under 35 USC 102 and 103:**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 over DeKeyser (US 4,806,159), Shoji (US 4,775,414) and Kay (US 4,746,838).

None of the cited references teach, disclose or suggest a composition for filling vias or holes. There is no evidence that the cited references would function at all as a material to provide electrically conductive vias that are uniform and reliable.

None of the cited references teach, disclose or suggest a composition as in amended claims 1, 12 or new claim 21 that include 4.0-12.0 wt. % organic vehicle, 15.0 - 30.0 wt. % silver particles and 66.0 - 78.0 wt. % nickel particles.

DeKeyser does not disclose 66.0 - 78.0 wt. % nickel particles. DeKeyser discloses using less than 10 % nickel.

Shoji does not disclose 66.0 - 78.0 wt. % nickel particles. Shoji discloses using less than 60 % nickel.

Kay does not disclose 66.0 - 78.0 wt. % nickel particles. Kay discloses using less than 30 % nickel.

A skilled artisan looking to fill holes in a substrate without dimples or protrusions would hardly be disposed to look at references for inorganic adhesives, plating activators or resistive inks. Further, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. None of the cited references deal with overcoming the problems of the

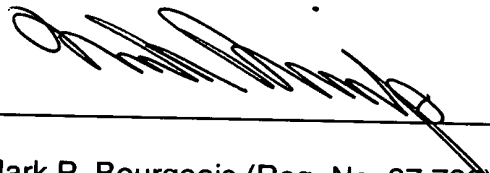
present invention, that is providing a via composition that produces flat vias without dimples or protrusions.

Dependent claims 3, and 6-11 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

**Conclusion:**

The present amendments to the claims and the accompanying discussion are believed to dispose of all issues in this case and to place this application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and passing of this application to issue is respectfully requested. Applicants' representative would welcome the opportunity to discuss options for gaining allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark P. Bourgeois (Reg. No. 37,782)